



Only **Keewaydin** residents can vote for this candidate for a Neighborhood Election.

## 2022 Board Candidate Application

**Name:** Mia (Simpson) Beste  
**Neighborhood:** Keewaydin  
**Currently Serving on the NENA Board:** Yes

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### 1. Tell us about yourself and your experience in the Keewaydin neighborhood and in Nokomis East?

My name is Mia Beste (formerly Mia Simpson), and I am a grateful resident of Nokomis East and an active board member of our neighborhood association. I live in Keewaydin with my husband, Travis, and our two pets, Hook the dog and Jaida the cat. There is so much that I love about this community: the expanse of trails, parkways, lakes, and streams; the local businesses and community schools; the comradery and pride of its neighbors; and the strength and depth of NENA. As the Twin Cities goes, there's no place I'd rather live than here.

### 2. Why are you interested in serving on the NENA Board of Directors? Describe your interests, skills, experience, hobbies, volunteer work or community involvement that will help your service on the Board?

Like this neighborhood, NENA is close to my heart. I became a board member two years ago following the murder of George Floyd and resulting social unrest, and was immersed with a group of caring citizens working through the night over several days to keep our community safe. I was so impressed by the work that happened that week, and I continue to be impressed as I've learned more about NENA's history and helped it navigate the pandemic to support our community while evolving its DEI practices. Its values closely align with mine: environmentalism, community building, local business support, safety, livability and advocacy.

Since my election to the board, I have served as treasurer and secretary of NENA. I also co-chaired the diversity, equity and inclusion committee, and am an active member in green initiative efforts. I've organized multiple neighborhood clean ups, helped plan green and DEI activities, and volunteered for a variety of events.

Outside of NENA, I serve as Vice Chair of the board for Resilient Cities and Communities, which supports local coalitions and city commissions implement equitable local climate policies. I have also co-chaired the Richfield Arts Commission, which advocates for and supports local arts initiatives. I am an active member of the Medtronic Women's Network, an employee resource group at my employer Medtronic, where I chair philanthropy and engagement committees.

**3. What hopes, goals and concerns do you have for the Keewaydin neighborhood and Nokomis East?**

I want this community to remain strong and vibrant, to be accessible and diverse, and to preserve its naturescape and small business community. I want our residents to feel safe and supported, and to connect with each other. The last two years have led to increasing food, housing and health insecurity, and have further exposed inequities in how people are policed, protected and supported in communities. I think we all have a role in working to address these issues, and my hope is that NENA will continue to be a strong advocate through its voice and initiatives for Nokomis East.

**4. What hopes, goals and concerns do you have for NENA?**

I have been a part of strategic planning for NENA as we charted our multi-year course with our new executive director and contracted funds with the city. Our strategic plan aligns directly with my hopes for the organization: to focus on a myriad of issues, including the environment, housing, livability, small business, and accessibility.

NENA is fortunate to have the funding to continue to staff the organization, but the funding trends from Minneapolis have been bleak for NENA this year and beyond. I think that its important that we find strategies to financially support NENA long term and build a base of volunteers and partners to ensure that NENA's impact remains strong.

**5. How will you reach out to the community during your Board term?**

I'm a social person by nature, so I'll do what I do best: talk to neighbors, work events, participate in committees, and share information via social media and other channels. I will also support any community outreach facilitated by NENA's annual programs or other efforts.

**6. What additional organizations, programs and events are you involved with?**

As stated above, I serve as Vice Chair of the board for Resilient Cities and Communities, and am active in the Medtronic Women's Network, an employee resource group at Medtronic. I have also co-chaired the Richfield Arts Commission, and helped establish an environmental commission in the city of Richfield. I'm a member of TeamWomen, located in St. Louis Park, and volunteer with local nonprofits Crossroads Panorama, Dress for Success, and Hope4Youth.

**7. If elected, I will be able to complete the full term of service of 2 years? Yes**

**8. If elected, I will support NENA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement of Purpose? Yes**

**9. I affirm that I meet the requirements of serving on the NENA Board of Directors and the information given in this Nomination Form is factual and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that should the nominee become an elected Board Member, any false statements, omissions or other misrepresentations could result in immediate dismissal. Yes**